Sl. No.	State/UT	Waiting List
25.	Uttaranchal	29
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0
27.	West Bengal	0
28.	Sikkim	0
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0
30.	Chandigarh	0
31.	Daman & Diu	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	Pondichery	0
	TOTAL:	2729

R & D Programme for postal servcies

†742. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no research and development programme for technological development related to postal services with Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Research and Development (R & D) activities including those for technological development related to postal services are carried out at 7 Postal Training Centres and 4 Software Development Centres

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

located across the country. Some important achievements of the Department's own R & D efforts are development of application software for counter operations, money order transmission, on-line handling of public grievances, track and trace of speed post articles and designing a new look modern letter box.

New post offices

743. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests pending with Government for opening of new post offices in various parts of the country alongwith the details of the post offices opened in the current financial year; and

(b) the procedure adopted for opening a new post office after receipt of a request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 311 requests pending with the Department, for opening of new post offices in various Postal Circles. So far, during the current financial year, 57 post offices have been opened in the country by relocation. Circle-wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	Circle	Number of Post Offices opened during 2005-06
1.	Assam	3
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Delhi	1
4.	Gujarat	5
5.	Haryana	4
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
7.	Jharkhand	1
8.	Karnataka	3
9.	Kerala	2
10.	Maharashtra	14